

A DISHONEST OFFICIAL.

How His Crooked Ways Were Exposed by a Post-Office Inspector.

While the Government does not reimburse the sender where money is lost in registered letters, the chances for losing money so sent is only one in 2,500. If a package is lost, and it is traced to the carelessness or negligence of the postal clerk, he has to pay for it. We have a case of that kind now, the loss being about \$125, and the clerk has paid about \$30 on it, paying stated sums monthly. Some peculiar things in this case develop. I had a case not long since where a county treasurer in Mississippi was the complainant. He claimed to have sent \$1,000 in a registered letter, the package being made up of six \$100 bills, six \$50 bills and a check for \$100, the remittance being made to the State Treasurer for taxes. The package reached its destination minus the money inclosures. I was sent to investigate the case. I called the sender into the post-office. He had previously made affidavit as to the details of the matter, setting forth that his daughter, who had received the six \$100 bills for a wedding present two years previously, had given the bills to him for this purpose, and that he had procured the six \$50 bills at various places within his bailiwick. I had previously secured the envelope and inclosures from the State Treasurer, and with them confronted him with the fact that he had inclosed the money as claimed he had not paid sufficient postage. He admitted that the post-office clerk weighed the package at the time of mailing. I put the same number of bills in the envelope and weighed it before him, showing that the difference in the postage was so great that even a careless clerk could not miss it. He thereupon began to weaken a little, but remained firm in the declaration that he had inclosed the money. I suggested that some one might have stolen the money before he had sealed the envelope; that a negro might have been in the room and taken it from the table. He readily jumped at the idea, and before he left the office made an affidavit saying he was not positive he had inclosed the money, thus relieving the Government entirely. It was afterward ascertained, that the man was short in his accounts as county treasurer, and took this means of escaping exposure. I think Congress ought to provide some means of punishing such offenders, or at least to reimburse the Government for the fifty or one hundred dollars expended in investigating the case.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

MR. EPSTEIN'S CUSTOMER.

A Real Genius Who Once Operated in a Pennsylvania Town.

A man went into a Broadway clothing-store the other day and asked to see a pair of trousers. He went into the closet to try them on. Calling out to the clerk that they didn't quite suit he was handed in another pair. Five pairs were handed in to him in this way, the last pair being just what he wanted. He kept them on, handing the clerk the price as he passed out. It was learned afterward that he had kept on all the trousers that had been handed in to him. The fellow was arrested, and he deserved to be, as his performance was a miserable plagiarism of the work of a real genius who once operated in Butler, Pa.

It was before Butler was as large a town as it is now. A man named Epstein started a clothing-store there in a small way. The people had been in the habit of having their garments made at home, and Mr. Epstein's store was something of an experiment. His stock accordingly was not extensive.

One day a stranger walked in and said he wanted to buy a suit. He was one of Epstein's first customers, and he was anxious to make the sale. The stranger retired to a small room, undressed in one corner to try on the clothes. He was hard to fit. Epstein kept handing him in drawers, undershirts, pants, coats, vests and collars and cuffs until the entire stock was in the little room. The man was ungainly in build, and he kept up a running fire of pleasantry about his ill shape and what a dreadful nuisance he was to store-keepers. Still, he always paid cash, he said, and bought a great many clothes, so the store-keepers kindly humored him. When he had all of Merchant Epstein's stock on his miserable back he said:

"This five-dollar suit that I have on is the best fit of all except the coat. I like the looks of the coat you have on, and if you give me that instead of the one that belongs to the suit, we'll call it a bargain and I'll just keep on the duds."

Epstein handed in his own coat, the stranger put it on over the rest of the stock and walked out, leaving the merchant in his shirt-sleeves, with nothing in the wide world to show for his late clothing emporium but a counterfeit five-dollar bill that the man palmed in his hand as he went out.—N. Y. World.

THE BUSY ICE-WORM.

A Cool Story Told in All Seriousness by a Rochester (N. Y.) Lady.

"It seems as if every year adds to the list of pests which are sent for some reason to torment poor suffering humanity," said a lady a reporter. She evidently had something on her mind besides potato bugs, cabbage worms, grubs and thousands of destructive insects which prey upon vegetation generally and on "every thing green" except white geese and college freshmen. "I have been bothered by carpet worms, moth millers, red and black ants, roaches and Croton bugs, but they are nothing compared to the latest pest."

"What is this plague?" said the reporter.

"Is it possible that you never heard of the ice-worm?" said the lady with astonishment depicted on every feature of her countenance. "Why, I recollect that the ice crop along the Hudson was ruined by this pest several years ago, or, at least, the newspapers said it was. The worm moved West, according to report, and at least two years ago it was stated that the ice dealers inclosed their store-houses

with fine-wire netting to keep the worms from getting at the congealed water. It would seem that this precaution was unavailing, and scientists now say that the worm is left in the water in the shape of an egg, frozen up in the ice and hatched out in the spring."

"How does it affect the ice?" asked the reporter.

"Its ravages are not apparent until the cakes of ice are broken up for use," was the reply. "If the men who deliver the day's supply notice that a cake is light weight they don't say anything, but put it in the refrigerator with as much apparent muscular effect as if it were solid instead of being a hollow delusion. The trouble comes when it is broken up for table use. The thin shell is fractured easily, and out comes a wriggling mass of long black worms as thick as my finger, and anywhere from six inches to a foot long. My Bridget nearly went crazy the first time she saw these horrible creatures, but now we are all used to them. They are harmless and can be tamed and taught many little tricks, and thus they afford endless amusement for the children. They must be kept in a cool place, however, else they die at once. We find just as many of these worms in lake ice as in that taken from the canal, but the latter are the more ferocious and show fight when touched. If you will call about dinner time I will give you a chance to interview the pests." The reporter did not call as he had another engagement.—Rochester Post-Express.

ODDITIES OF GENIUS.

Why the Sioux Indians Were Afraid of Peaceful Prof. Hayden.

Prof. F. V. Hayden was the founder of the system which developed into the geological survey of the United States. He was a man of great genius and a renowned scholar, but erratic and peculiar. It was not uncommon for strangers to follow him several blocks, their attention arrested by his bowed figure as he almost ran for a few steps, then suddenly stopped with his gray eyes fixed on the pavement, then ran again as if a sudden thought had struck him; then they would inquire: "Who can that poor insane man be?"

While Prof. Hayden was exploring the land of the Sioux Indians some years ago he once, in his enthusiastic passion for geological research, wandered away from his party; he had loaded himself down with large specimens of mineral, and while tramping slowly along in his absent-minded way the Indians captured him. They whooped and yelled at their prize at first, but upon seeing all the "rocks and worthless stones" which the poor man was staggering under, and his composed, abstracted manner, they decided that he was "afflicted with a foolish mind." They took him without protest on his part, which only confirmed their fears; and after a few hours' captivity the old scientist, with his "rocks," was led to the nearest point of civilization and "turned loose," lest the Great Spirit should punish them for any "harm done the foolish or simple minded."

He was daring, fearless and reckless in danger, a most distinguished scientific man, and much beloved by the young men of his survey. His death during the last year was greatly mourned.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

GALLOWES AND NOOSE.

Historical Information Concerning Jack Ketch and His Implements.

"Jack Ketch" was the real name of a public executioner in the time of Charles II., who died in 1686. One of the earliest allusions to him is to be found in the epilogue to Dryden's "Duke of Guise," 1682:

"'Jack Ketch,' says I, 'is an excellent physician.'"

The gallows was called then, as later, the "triple tree." Earlier writers allude to it as the "three trees;" Herman, in his "Caveat," 1573, says: "Repentance is never thought upon until they clyme three trees with a ladder." Rowlands flippantly speaks of the fatal nooses as "Tyburn Tiffany." A very common expression in seventeenth-century literature, but not used since, is "hangman's wages," which represented the sum of thirteenpence half-penny.

To sit on pillories and cart tails, or hangman's wages.

says Butler in "Hudibras." Why should I eat hempened at the hangman's thirteenpence halfpenny ordinary?" is a very allusive and idiomatically-expressed question in one of Dekker's plays. The old Scotch merk or mark was worth a trifle over thirteenpence halfpenny, and on the accession of James I. to the English Crown, it was by proclamation made current in England of that value exactly. If the hangman had previously been paid one shilling a day—and this was considered a pretty quick work for even electricity. It was not until the doubting Thomases had known and felt that they believed. But now since tanning by this process seems an assured fact it is no longer regarded as a sort of transatlantic offset to our electric sugar refining. Every item that can be gleaned is thoroughly discussed and every source of information eagerly sought. That the earlier efforts in this direction were failures is true, but this is largely owing to a lack of electrical knowledge on the part of the inventors. They were unable to economically produce an effective current. And again, many experiments were necessary to learn the strength of the most effective current. But this in time was learned, as was also the most economic means of production. Only a uniform current will give good results.

The process as described by those who have seen it is a very simple one. The hides are placed in large cylinders, which revolve upon horizontal axes. The drum is filled with a solution of tannin and closed. Provision is made for the passing of a current of electricity through the drum. The drum is kept slowly revolving until the process of tanning is completed. The length of time required varies with the nature of the hide. For the lighter skins, such as sheep and goat, which used to require from three to six months, by the electric process are tanned in two-

Why Victoria Dislikes Gladstone.

Queen Victoria's dislike of Gladstone is at last explained. A recent writer says that when the grand old man used to visit the royal old lady he was wont to talk to her "about the polity of the Hittites or the relations between the Athenians and Homer." The Queen, perplexed and uncomfortable, would seek to make a diversion, and would address a remark to a daughter or offer a biscuit to a beggarly terrier. Mr. Gladstone would restrain himself with an effort, wait until the Princess had answered the dog had sat down, and then promptly resume. "As I was saying." Meanwhile the flood had gathered force by delay, and when it burst forth again it carried all before it. Victoria used to complain that on these occasions it was Gladstone that was rude! She was probably in the same predicament that Biddy Morlarity was when O'Connell called her a parallelogram.—Chicago Tribune.

A Mississippi man who counted the number of seeds in a bushel of various grains found that corn went 72,080; wheat, 832,000; spars, 108,000, and cotton seed, 164,164.

THE GREAT HEREAFTER.

Vague Terms Applied to the Future World in Many Lands.

Among vague terms applied to the future world are the following: "The great hereafter," "the other world," "futura," "the great somewhere else," "the after life," "the farther shore," "the spirit world," "the unseen universe," "the great beyond." It is necessary to inform you that "the sweet ultimately" is an American term. A famous Frenchman, when dying said that he was about to go into the "great perhaps." Similar terms are "the dim unknown," and "the unknown dark." In poetry the future world is "the happy land, far, far away," "the land of the leal," "the world beyond the stars," "daybreak," "the mansion of light," "Jerusalem the golden," "the better land," "the realms of the blessed," "the happy isles," "beyond the waveless sea," "the fair home above," "the realms of endless day," "the celestial shore," "the harbor of rest," "the sovereign dim, illimitable ground." Cameos terms are "the Lethian dungeon," and "the somber shades aernal." Anglo-Saxon terms refer to "the green worlds of Paradise." Mrs. Barbauld calls it "the brighter clime." Goethe speaks of joining "the ghostly nation." Shakespeare terms it "the undiscovered country," and "from whose bourne no traveler returns." Edgar Allan Poe calls it "the distant Aiden," "the Plutonian shore," and "the Lethian peace of the skies." To the negroes of the Southern States of America the future world is, both in conversation and hymns, "de oder side ob Jordan," "de shinin' strand," "de golden city," "de land ob Canaan," "Eden's blissful shore," or "Canaan's happy shore." To Bunyan, Heaven is "the celestial city," and "Sion the golden." To Colong Ingersoll the other world is a "shoreless sea." The Scotch call it "the eternal Savelath." To the red Indians of North America the future world is "the happy hunting grounds." Bover says: "We journey across the isthmus of now to the continent of then." The general term applied by the ancients to the future dwelling-place of spirits was "the under world," and this term has been much employed in medieval and modern poetry. A similar term is "the nether world." According to the ancient Persians, all spirits returned to Ormuzd, the vital principle of life and motion. The Karins of Burmah call Heaven "the new city." Buddhism teaches that the future life will be blissful quiescence in Nirvana. The Mussulmans "Al Araf" is the region between Paradise and Hades, where those who are neither good nor bad remain. When engaged in battle the Slavonian's shout "Hu-ray" ("to Paradise!"). The spirit of the good Japanese when he dies eats of the Wasuregusa, or herb of forgetfulness, and all sad memories are thus dispelled, and the soul is "tranced by its taste for evermore." The Egyptians believed that immediately after death the soul descended into the lower world called Amenti, and was conducted to the "hall of truth," where it was judged in the presence of Osiris and of his forty-two assessors. The good were then conducted to Ahiu, or the "pools of peace." These were the dwelling-places of the blest. The wicked were condemned to a series of transmutations in the bodies of animals. If after many trials sufficient purity was not attained, they were condemned to complete annihilation by Shu the Lord of Light. In the mythology of Greece and Rome the abode of the dead is named Hades, or the realm of Pluto. The proper name of this region was Erebus, which was the dwelling-place of the virtuous as well as the wicked. This was in later times divided into Tartarus, where the wicked were confined, and Elysium, the abode of the blessed.—English Rare Bits.

TANNING BY ELECTRICITY.

A New Way of Making Leather That Will Revolutionize the Trade.

The process of converting hides into leather, as now followed, consumes a space of time varying from six to twelve months. It also demands close attention and good management, as well as experience. Great care has to be exercised in the selection of material, else a lot of choice hides are found at the expiration of the tanning season to have deteriorated into second or even third quality leather. Tanners, and leather dealers generally, are accredited with being very careful and conservative in all their business methods.

With these facts in view it is not surprising that when it was reported from France that leather was being tanned by electricity, American tanners regarded the statement as a newspaper sensation. Twenty-four hours was considered a pretty quick work for even electricity. It was not until the doubting Thomases had known and felt that they believed. But now since tanning by this process seems an assured fact it is no longer regarded as a sort of transatlantic offset to our electric sugar refining. Every item that can be gleaned is thoroughly discussed and every source of information eagerly sought. That the earlier efforts in this direction were failures is true, but this is largely owing to a lack of electrical knowledge on the part of the inventors. They were unable to economically produce an effective current. And again, many experiments were necessary to learn the strength of the most effective current. But this in time was learned, as was also the most economic means of production. Only a uniform current will give good results.

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four hours. The heavier hides, such as calf, ox, cow or horse, require from seventy-two to ninety-six hours. By the old-fashioned bark process twelve months, or even more, would have been taken.

The cost of production is greatly reduced by this method, for not only is the saving in time, but in labor. The actual cost of working is reduced over fifty per cent. By the bark process the cost of tanning is from seven to eight cents per pound of dry leather, as against that of three to four cents by the electric methods. And again, where a force of fifty men were required to produce a given quantity of leather, only ten are needed to produce the same by the new methods. Heretofore large capital has been required to run a tannery having a regular weekly output. As hides often require to lie in the tan vats nearly a year, it will be seen that a great number must be in process of tanning in order that a certain amount of leather be turned out each week. In addition to extensive plant, heavy investments are represented by the hides in tannage. But the electric process completely revolutionizes this. Hides purchased on Monday have been converted into leather and put on the market by Saturday.

Just what effect the electric current has upon the tannin is, as yet, a question of dispute. Some claim that its effect is upon the tannin, giving it more active properties. Others say that it affects the hide only. Prof. S. P. Thompson, who has examined the process, thinks that the effect is to open the pores of the hide and so permit a more rapid access of the tannin solution. Another claims that the current renders the gelatine more soluble, so that it is able to combine more rapidly with the tannin. There is reason to believe that there is truth in both these statements, from the fact that the leather is much more pliable and of greater strength than that of the long process.—N. Y. Mail and Express.

OUR COAST DEFENSE.

Advantages to Be Derived from the Employment of Electricity.

Electricity plays perhaps the most wonderful part in all these huge works. Not far from the main fort, there would be built a little round building. This would be the place for the "tower of observation" of the commanding officer. From here he could see all over the harbor and away out to sea. The tower would be strong, and inside would be the wonderful key-boards of the electric system. By means of these, the commander could telephone to the Captain of any battery to load his guns, and aim them at such and such an angle and direction. The Captain of the battery would do so and telephone back the moment he was ready. The commander could tell the Captain to fire, or he could, if he chose, press a little key and himself fire each gun singly or all the guns at once. He could do the same with all the batteries and forts, and he could, from his little tower miles away, by a light touch of his finger explode every gun in the harbor, and send tons and tons of metal flying with crushing force at any vessel he pleased. He could do even more. He could explode any, or all, of the mines and torpedoes at once, or he could have one grand simultaneous explosion of all the guns, torpedoes and mines. At each fort and battery would be stationed officers who by means of instruments would find exactly the course of the enemy's ships. This would be telegraphed to the commander, who would then know at every instant just where any vessel is, and how fast she is sailing. So he could predict that a ship will pass a certain spot at a certain time, and if she did not change her course, could press the key, and blow up the vessel, or send at her a huge bolt of iron or steel. If the enemy had landed a force on the mainland down the coast, and it was marching on the fort to take it in the rear, the commander could wait till he saw the force on a road approaching a fort, when, pressing another key, several iron doors of the fort would open and automatic machine-guns pop out, and commence firing at the rate of six hundred shots per minute apiece, and keep it up until they were ordered to stop. If the enemy would withdraw and the fields close it can be seen that the commander should know absolutely all that is going on, as otherwise he might fire into his own forts, or on his own patrol-boats.—Lieut. W. R. Hamilton, U. S. A., in St. Nicholas.

Grave-Yards in London.

A return has just been issued from the Home Office, dealing with the subject of metropolitan cemeteries. Of the twenty-three cases which have fallen within the scope of this inquiry, it appears that the City of London and Tower Hamlets Cemetery, Mile-end, leads off with a ghastly tenantry of some 247,000 bodies, while the All Souls' Kensal Green, occupies the largest area, comprising some sixties-nine acres, and also enjoys the priority of age. As regards the space allotted for each grave, some disparity is observable, nine feet by six feet six inches being the maximum limit. The common interment system is very general, it being, for instance, the practice in some districts to bury as many as eight to ten adults, or twelve children and grown-up persons mixed, in a common resting place.—London Telegraph.

The Bottom All Right.

"Yes, it is pretty dull in our town just now in real estate matters," said the Kansas man, "but I am not discouraged."

"The boom has passed, I hear?"

"Well, yes."

"And the bottom dropped out?"

"No, sir; I deny that. While there are no sales to record, and while prices have fallen sixty per cent., the bottom is all right as all right."

"What do you call the bottom?"

"A sandstone ledge twenty-seven feet thick, sir. We may suffer a collapse now and then, but the bottom has come to stay."—N. Y. Sun.

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

—Switzerland has built 1,000 Inns since tourists began to visit her.

—Princess Louise's wedding jewelry alone was estimated at £200,000 worth.

—A six-ton cab, carrying an electric battery strong enough to run it forty miles, recently made a satisfactory trip through London.

—It is absolutely essential that every Maid of Honor employed in the British Royal Family should be a good horsewoman and correct reader of music at sight.

—Prince Bismarck has at Varzin 22,000 acres, of which 15,000 are covered with glorious forests of oak and beech. His home farm comprises 400 acres, and the remainder of the cleared land is let in farms of about 700 acres each.

—It is estimated that in London the evening papers print no fewer than 250,000 copies every day, whereas thirty years ago they did not issue 10,000 altogether. Of the morning journals, there are two that boast of printing more than 500,000 copies between them for the day's supply.

—A new use for rabbits has been found by the physicians of the Birmingham Lunatic Asylum. A number of wild rabbits have been turned loose on to the fields adjoining the institution, so that the inmates will be amused by seeing the rabbits run about, and to divert the mind of the patients is one of the great objects of the institution.

—In the last year there have been fished out of the river Seine the carcasses of 2,021 dogs, 977 cats, 2,257 rats, 507 chickens and ducks, 22 puppies, 10 sheep, 66 pigs, 5 calves, 27 geese, 609 birds, 3 foxes, 2 hogs, 3 monkeys, 8 goats, 1 snake, 2 squirrels, 3 porcupines, 1 parrot, 130 doves, 2 peacocks, and 1 sea dog. Besides all this, a great number of human bodies and 3,066 kilometers of refuse meat were taken from the river.

—When a French Deputy is censured and expelled by the Legislature he is forbidden, it is said, even to enter the palace where the sessions are held during the fifteen sessions following the expulsion, and he is fined a half of his pay as a member. Furthermore, he is compelled to advertise his shame in the department which he represents, at his own expense, by posting in public places 300 printed accounts of the whole affair.

—The Swami of Southern India have always been greatly celebrated for their skill as jewelers, but the forms and figures usually made have been of a character that was inadmissible in western society. A Parsee gentleman, having obtained the appointment of Indian jeweler to the Queen of England, obtained sufficient influence among the Swami to induce them to abandon their old style, and the result was a beautifully-wrought casket for Princess Louise, of a workmanship comparatively unknown.

—The Russians have recently improved on the sleeping-coaches of the railway and the preambulating school-master of the rural regions. They have provided a school-wagon which is furnished with a room for the teacher, a class-room or study, and a library, all suitably supplied with the necessary material. This wagon will be on the line of the Transcaspian railway all round the year, remaining as long as may be deemed necessary at districts not provided with a school.—Science.

—The Chilians have evidently discovered the secret of longevity. From a recent return it appears that nearly 500 persons out of a total of 2,500,000 are upwards of a hundred years old. One man puts his age down at 150, making him the oldest man in the world. After him comes a woman aged 138; two women and one man report themselves as 135; 132, 130 and 127 each have a representative, while there are seven 125 years old, eight 120, twenty-seven 115, and no less than ninety-one aged 110. But they are mostly colored persons. The whites in Chili are cut down like flowers at the early age of 90 or so.

HOLE-BORING CRICKETS.

Fecular Insects Which Are Ravaging the Grain Crops of Algeria.

A peculiar species of cricket, the *stanozonotus maroccanus*, infects the eastern provinces of Algeria, and is ravaging all the growing crops of grain.

This destructive insect, bred on the dry and bare highlands of the Tell, has been descending into the cultivated plains toward the shores of the Mediterranean during the past four years.

The insect's mouth is armed with two strong horny hooks in the upper jaw, moving horizontally, crossing each other like the blades of scissors.

With these, having climbed a cornstalk, they first quickly strip off the beard and husks of the ear of corn, which they allow to fall to the ground, and then cut open every grain, devouring only its farinaceous part, and this to the last crumb.

Five or six insects will ascend a cornstalk at once, till it bends under their weight; millions and millions are in the field, swarming all round, seeking an unoccupied stalk, for they will seldom eat the husks or the stalk itself.

The female insect, which is much larger than the male, lays her eggs about the end of June or beginning of July. She uses dry and sterile ground, in which she bores a hole an inch deep by the instrumentality of a valvular sucking-tube at the extremity of her abdomen.

Applying the end of this tube to the grains of earth or sand, which are loosened by its moisture, she lifts and removes them sticking to the tube, and continues the process till the hole is excavated. Then she deposits in the hole a cylindrical ovary, a case or shell of hardened mudlage, containing about forty eggs, very neatly packed together.

The eggs remain nine months in the earth, and are slowly hatched by the heat of the sun, till the spring of the following year, when a little white caterpillar comes out of each egg; it is speedily transformed into a cricket.

Two British Admirals.

The youngest Admiral of the British fleet is Sir Geoffrey Hornby. The oldest is Sir Provo Wallis, G. C. B. Admiral Wallis is ninety-eight years old. It is eighty-five years—just the year before Trafalgar—since he first went to sea. And it is more than seventy-six years since he fought in that famous sea fight between the English Shannon and the Chesapeake, of Boston—the latest fight between England and her American offspring, and may be the last. It is pleasant to think that this grand old seaman, a contemporary of Nelson, is still in full health and strength.—Cor. Detroit Free Press.

HOME AND FARM.

—Never wash a jelly-bag, strainer-cloth, pudding-bag or dumpling-net with soap. The next thing that is put into or passed through these things will surely taste of the flavoring of alkali.

—Cut cats with bran makes one of the very best feeds for the work teams during the summer. There is little or no waste, while they make a good ration for the growth of bone and muscle.

—Large seed is better than small. They furnish more nutriment to the young plants than the small seeds do, which gives them a vigorous start early in the season, and enables them to keep ahead of the plants grown from smaller seed.

—Sitting hens may be broken up by tying a long red flannel rag two inches wide tightly around the leg. The effect is magical. At the sight of the trailing flannel she will not sit down, and at last is glad to go to the roost with the others.—Farm and Home.

—The farmer who strays off habitually to town or elsewhere for pastime loses interest in his work, forgets what is to be done and goes down to the dogs by sure degrees, leading a pinched and miserable life on land that might have supplied him and his with more than competence.—N. Y. Tribune.

—Old pastures that are overrun with weeds can be best utilized for sheep, as they will eat on the young weeds and keep them down. Many weeds are valuable, so far as their use for food is concerned, but are undesirable in place of regular salable crops. They can be utilized when young by pasturing sheep upon them, and if weeds are not allowed to seed grass will again take possession of the field.

—Crab-Apple Shortcake: One pint sweet cream, two teaspoonfuls baking powder, one-half teaspoonful of salt, and flour to make a soft dough. Make into three layers, spreading the two under ones with butter as you place them on top of each other. Bake in a moderately hot oven. Stew the crab-apples, sweeten them to taste and let them stand while the cake is baking. The Siberian crab-apple is best for this purpose. When the cake is done, spread the apples between the layers, and serve with whipped cream, if desired.

COUNTRY AND CITY.

Why the Farming Population Is Entitled to Every Body's Respect.

Some city people have acquired a most unfortunate habit of sneering at and ridiculing the country and country people. It is not the active, successful class of people who do this. Such have too much sense, and, besides, a large proportion of them were themselves country-born and bred. Any one having true appreciation of the importance of the farming population as the basis of public prosperity can not fail to treat it not merely with respect, but with deference. Every class has some peculiarities. Those of country people are such as adapt them to the necessities of their life, and it is upon the workers in the country, rather than upon idlers anywhere, that the progress of mankind must always be based.

People from the city can learn much if they will visit the country with eyes and ears open to discover what is new, rather than pursue the opposite policy of sneering at every thing. May be; if they will not be too supercilious, they may find in their unassuming country friends much of value to be learned. It was a wise man, as well as a thorough gentleman, who once remarked that he never found any one, however unprepossessing in appearance, who did not know on some subject more than he did. So, while low pates went through life constantly poking fun at somebody, he was all the time learning something.

There is besides another aspect to modern country life too little appreciated. It now requires more thought and brain power to achieve notable success on the farm than it does in almost any other avocation of life. Mere muscle, sitting for the roughest kind of manual toil, is no longer what is mainly in demand on the farm. It is true, hard work is yet to be done, requiring much muscular development, but it must be educated and skilled muscle. Mind as well as body must be thoroughly trained.

Through most of the Northern States at least, the large majority of soil tillers are as diverse as possible from the ideal of the farmer and his life brought from Europe, never properly fitting this country, and now more unlike existing farming than ever before. The farmer of to-day has to work hard, but he must work with thought as well as with hand. He must possess an amount of current information such as scarcely any other branch of business can require. And every year sees, we believe, a large proportion of American farmers reaching this high standard.—American Cultivator.

A Snipe Dresses Its Wounds.

An interesting account of how birds treat wounds by surgical methods was recently presented to the Physical Society of Geneva by M. Fatio. In this it was stated that the snipe had been observed to apply a dressing of feathers to wounds, and even to bandage a broken leg. Any creature with legs as long and brittle as a snipe's ought really to know how to take care of them. A case recorded of a snipe, both of whose legs had been broken by a misdirected shot, is the most interesting example of snipe surgery. The poor creature contrived to apply dressings of feathers and a sort of splint to both legs, but unfortunately, in doing so, its beak got wound fast with feathers, and as it could not use its claws to get rid of them and open its mouth, it was nearly dead from hunger when it was found. In another case, a snipe that flew away with a broken leg was afterwards found to have freed the fragments into a parallel position and secured them by a ligature of a kind of flat-leaved grass wound around the limb spirally and fixed by a glue-like substance.—Democrat's Monthly.